

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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SS-20 USIA-15 AGR-20 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08 OIC-04

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9029

AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDOC WASHDC

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USDOC FOR WALLACE/NOAA AND FOR SCHONING/NMFS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EFIS OCON PBOR DA FO

SUBJ: NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION
(NEAFC) HERRING QUOTA PROPOSAL

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REF: A. COPENHAGEN A-49 AND B. COPENHAGEN A-66

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. DENMARK VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION FOR A TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH (TAC) QUOTA ON NORTH SEA HERRING. THE FAEROESE AGREED TO THE DANISH VOTE AFTER A SINGLE OVERALL QUOTA WAS SET RATHER THAN SEPARATE QUOTAS FOR DENMARK AND THE FAEROES. THE RECOMMENDATION IS EXPECTED TO BE APPROVED BY THE NEAFC STATES. IF NO MORE THAN TWO OBJECTIONS ARE SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED TO IT, THE RECOMMENDATION BECOMES BINDING UPON THE NON-OBJECTING STATES. ALSO NECESSARY FOR THE TAC QUOTA TO BECOME EFFECTIVE IS AMENDMENT OF THE CONVENTION WHICH IS PRESENTLY BEING HELD UP BY LACK OF BELGIAN APPROVAL. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY LONDON VERIFICATION OF VOTE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE GOVERNMENT OF DENMARK INFORMED THE NEAFC SECRETARIAT THAT DENMARK VOTES IN FAVOR OF THE PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION (NEAFC PRESIDENT PROPOSAL REVISED) FOR NEW REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE NORTH SEA HERRING STOCKS. THE RECOMMENDATION PROVIDES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH (TAC) AND THE DIVISION OF THE TAC AMONG CONTRACTING STATES.

3. IN THE REVISED PROPOSAL, A SINGLE QUOTE OF 210,000 METRIC TONS HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO DENMARK, INCLUDING THE FAEROE ISLANDS. AT THE MARCH MEETING IN LONDON (REF A), SEPARATE QUOTAS HAD BEEN SET, I.E., DENMARK 170,000 TONS AND THE FAEROE ISLANDS 40,000 TONS. THE FAEROESE FOUND THE 40,000 TONS UNACCEPTABLE AND WOULD NOT PUBLICLY TAKE PART OF THE DANISH QUOTA WHICH WAS OFFERED IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE DANES AND THE FAEROESE. COMBINING THE TWO QUOTAS OVERCAME THE OPPOSITION WHICH HAD BEEN PRIMARILY BASED ON POLITICAL AND NATIONALISTIC CONSIDERATIONS. OUT OF THE COMBINED DANISH 210,000 TON QUOTA, IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE FAEROESE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILL HAVE MORE THAN 40,000 TONS.

4. IT IS GENERALLY EXPECTED THAT THE NEAFC PROPOSAL WILL BE ACCEPTED BY THE NECESSARY MAJORITY OF THE CONTRACTING STATES VOTING, AND THAT THE RECOMMENDATION WILL PASS.

5. THE OBJECTION PERIOD TO ANY RECOMMENDATION

MAY LAST AS LONG AS 180 DAYS UNDER NEAFC RULES. AS A RESULT, THE NEAFC PRESIDENT ASKED THE CONTRACTING STATES TO INDICATE, WHEN VOTING ON HIS PROPOSAL, WHETHER THEY WOULD OBJECT TO THE RECOMMENDATION IF THE VOTE WAS IN APPROVAL. IT WAS HOPED THAT BY THIS UNUSUAL PROCEDURE, A HERRING QUOTA MIGHT BECOME EFFECTIVE BY JULY 1. SOME CONTRACTING STATES HAD INDICATED LEGAL DIFFICULTIES OVER THIS PROCEDURE. THE GOVERNMENT OF DENMARK NOTED IN ITS CURRENT VOTE ON THE PROPOSAL THAT IT FACED CERTAIN TECHNICAL PROBLEMS CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEASURE FOR THE FAEROE ISLANDS (SEE REF B), BUT THAT IT WOULD ATTEMPT TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEMS BY JULY 1 OR TO CARRY ON IN THE SPIRIT OF THE RECOMMENDATION.

6. THE RECOMMENDATION, EVEN IF APPROVED, WILL BE BINDING PROVIDED THAT NO MORE THAN TWO CONTRACTING STATES OBJECT TO IT WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED OBJECTION PERIOD.

7. IN ADDITION, ANOTHER OBSTACLE WHICH STILL JEOPARDIZES SUCCESSFUL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TAC IS THE ARTICLE 7(2) REVISION OF THE NEAFC CONVENTION. BELGIUM WILL HAVE HAD TO APPROVE THE REVISION BY THAT DATE AND QUESTIONING OF ICELAND'S EXCEPTION IN ITS APPROVAL OF THE REVISION WILL HAVE TO BE PLACED IN ABEYANCE.

8. ACTION REQUESTED. AMEMBASSY LONDON MAY WISH TO CONTACT THE NEAFC SECRETARIAT IN LONDON TO VERIFY VOTE ON THE PROPOSAL.

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Message Attributes

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